

This is a public comment for the Wright Retention (CC Docket # 96428)

Received & Inspected

OCT 15 2012 10-8-12

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

FCC Mail Room

I am a prisoner in the Arizona Department of Corrections in Florence, AZ. I wanted to make a comment about the high price of telephone calls (collect and debit) from prison.

I do understand that telephone calls are not a right, but a privilege (as a prisoner) and I am thankful for the telephone system which allows for me to contact my family who live too far away to regularly visit me.

Currently, I pay \$5.00 (average) on a 15 minute ^{call} (collect or debit) to speak to my family on an in-state call. It costs \$40.00 a month to call my 85 year old mother ^{twice a week} who lives about 200 miles away. I only get to see her once or twice a year because it's so expensive to drive to the prison, plus pay hotel expenses (100.00 a night). I've been in prison for over 24 years, and phone calls are the only way I can really stay connected (except for letters), to my Mom, family & friends.

Out of state calls are even higher. Some are as high as \$10.00 per 15 minute call (debit or collect) or higher. Our phone system uses Securus / T-Netix phone service. The phones (themselves) often break down, or you can't hear well.

What I am hoping you can do, is find a way to allow inmates to pay a decent rate for phone calls. In some cases, phone calls are the only link to keeping families strong, & that helps inmates to manage prison life better, and to become better citizens after release. Thank you for considering my comments on this issue.

Sincerely, Jeffrey L. Stein

AOC 71574

ASPL-Eyman / Cook Unit 7

P.O. Box 3200

Florence, AZ 85132

"This is a public Comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)."

Rebecca A. Butcher
1121 S. Timberline Dr.
Benbrook, TX 76126
(817) 249-2403

Received & Inspected

OCT 15 2012

FCC Mail Room

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
www.phonejustice.org
[www.http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/upload/display.action?z=whn8](http://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/upload/display.action?z=whn8) (enter
docket #96-128)

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

It is my understanding comments are being accepted about the high cost of prison and jail telephone cost. I am glad to hear that somebody who can really do something -- The Federal Government and the FCC -- about the high cost of these telephone calls is finally listening. I understand that like half the funds generated from these calls goes to the State, and that this money is supposed -- some -- go toward victims of crimes. That is understandable, but what about the families who endure a loved ones absence, whose only means of contact is through the offender telephone system? The families did not do anything wrong, but yet they are suffering and are being forced to pay these high costs. I am one of those such families. What's more, the technology is there so that these phone calls cost next to nothing. Why are the families of loved ones in prison being singled out and made to pay additional fees to talk to their loved ones, even if they are in prison? It is unfair and it is not right.

I hope something can be done; I hope these phone calls or the cost of these phone calls can be reduced. If I need to be contacted, I can be reached at the address or telephone number above. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Rebecca A. Butcher

Received & Inspected

OCT 15 2012

FCC Mail Room

Reginald Bryant
No. EP4236
SCI-GREENE
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, Pa 15370

October 5, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128). My name is Reginald Bryant and I have been in the Pennsylvania State Prison System since 2001 and these prison phone call prices is killing me. My family lives on the Eastern side of Pennsylvania and the D.O.C. has placed me on the Western side of Pennsylvania to serve my time of incarceration. I am being charged \$5.55 cents for every 15 minute phone call that I make and the D.O.C. provides you with a job that pays \$.17 cents an hour for 6 hours a day, five days a week which is equivalent to \$20.40 cent a month. Throughout the Pennsylvania penal system the lowest phone card you can purchase is for \$10 dollars and this \$10 dollars is not even enough to cover two phone calls because our phone calls are \$5.55 cents for 15 minutes.

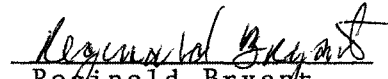
Many of us only get a chance to talk to our family once a month because of the expensive phone call prices here in Pennsylvania and many of us is experiencing tremendous pain from not being able to talk to our love ones. It really hurts not knowing how my family and kids are doing out there in that fast growing dangerous society and not being able to talk to them on a regular basis brings about a lot of stress while being incarcerated. Knowing that we have a voice to help guide our young ones in the right direction and help solve many family problems but unfortunately, the expensive phone call prices prevents our voice from being heard.

I believe that these expensive phone call prices is equivalent to Cruel and Unusual Punishment which is a violation of our Constitutional Rights and it is a flat out extortion because not only is our family tax paying citizens, they are now being forced to send their love ones money in order for them to hear their voice over the phone just to make sure that they are doing all right in prison.

In 2010 I was shipped out to Muskegon Michigan due to the over crowded Pennsylvania Prison system and I was amazed to see that Michigan phone call prices was ten times better and cheaper than Pennsylvania's, and even though we were two States a way, 99% of us was happy and relieved to be able to talk to our love ones over the phone on a regular basis.

Being able to correspond with our love ones over the phone brings about much love and joy to the prisoner and his family. So I believe if we can have affordable phone call prices it will allow us to strengthen the bond with our love ones and help solve many problems and make a change in life.

Cordially


Reginald Bryant

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION(CC DOCKET# 96-128)

Received & Inspected

OCT 15 2012

FCC Mail Room

ERIC HAYDEN #FD-7797

10745, Route 18

ALBION, PA 16475

October 8, 2012

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

The high cost of prison phone rates has affected me and my loved ones. Currently, I am more than 9 hours away from the city I live in. Visits are difficult because of the long distances and cost. I usually call once a week collect to talk to my loved ones. It cost 8 dollars for a 15 minute collect call. That is 32 dollars a month and 384 dollars a year. These exorbitant costs can sometimes cause individuals to be estranged from incarcerated family members. The high cost of prison phone calls can also limit my ability to secure a family safety net due to me not being face to face with my loved ones.

Most prisons and jails sign contracts with phone companies that return the greatest commission. These "kickbacks" together with requirements that poor inmates' make collect calls, means that a grandparent caring for my kids is paying monthly phone bill that cost hundreds of dollars.

I make 23 cents a hour working in prison. I cannot afford to call home without some kind of help from the outside. These phone rates put stress and frustration on me, my wife, my kids, my parents, my aunts, my uncles, my brothers, my sisters and many friends. And we all know that stress and frustration can lead to death.

Sincerely Yours,

Eric Hayden

ERIC HAYDEN

Oct. 7, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Indexed

OCT 10 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

This is a public Comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128).

My name is Gerald E. Hackett #AC8601. At this present time I am confined at California State Prison, Los Angeles County, Located in Lancaster CA. I am 57 years old I have 5 sisters and 1 brother. I also have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. My family ties use to be very close. When my mother passed in 1990 things just kind of fell apart.

I am serving time under the three strikes law and was sentenced to 236 years to life. I will probably never see my family again, due to the fact that we are no longer a close family. I can't afford to call them on the phone because of the high cost. I truly feel that if I were able to communicate with my family by phone that I'd be able to maintain my family ties.

I pray that someone will be able to help us with this telephone issue. I miss my family and I need to be able to communicate with them. I have grandchildren that I have never been able to talk to.

Sincerely yours

Gerald E. Hackett #AC8601
C.S.P. Los Angeles County
P.O. Box 4430 (A2-138 up)
Lancaster, CA. 93539

Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Mrs. Crystal L King
1914 Main Street, #D-7
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Received
OCT 18 2012
FCC Mail Room

July 21, 2012

RE: OPPRESSIVE PRISON PHONE RATES

Greetings Ms. Clyburn:

I am the wife of a prisoner in Pennsylvania and write to you today seeking relief from the oppressive phone rates being forced on friends and family of prisoners in this State. I have already paid tens of thousands in prison phone charges because I must communicate with my husband, who tries to limit the amount of calls to ease the expense. I ask him to call because I realize the importance communication has in a marriage and support his leadership in our family. Incarceration doesn't remove the responsibility he has to his family and community and he reminds me that he hasn't forgotten that fact.

Together my husband and I are compiling all the phone bills over the last 8½ years to present as evidence of this unfair treatment of Pennsylvanians, both free and incarcerated, by telecommunication companies and and the Department of Corrections.

Until now there hasn't been anyone we could voice our complaints to. These companies and their kickbacks to the Department of Corrections (DOC) are taking advantage of us, allowing no other option or phone package to be used, and charging exorbitant rates. When my husband purchases a phone card from the prison commissary to place calls to me I am also charged at times for that very same call. I have called the phone company to dispute the charges and have been met with disrespectful and argumentive customer service personnel. I cannot refuse their phone service because no other is provided by the DOC for me to be able to speak and consult with my husband. So sometimes it has been one call, two people being charged for it.

How are we to reinforce positive behaviors in our incarcerated loved ones without adequate methods of communications? Where is the bridging the gap between family and those incarcerated which presentatives from the DOC boast so often about? As a wife, I am diligent in my efforts to support my husband, and will continue to do so. I am seeking protection from the monopoly the phone companies presently have on us. Allow other telecommunication companies to be utilized, lowering the rates, and place a cap on what can be reasonable charged for prison phone calls.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Crystal L. King
(Wife of an Incarcerated Citizen)

LOUIS THOMPSON AF9937
175 PROGRESS DRIVE
WAYNESBURG, PA 15370

Received & Filed

OCT 10 2012

FCC MAIL ROOM

FCC - CHAIRMAN
JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
445 12TH ST., SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

OCTOBER 8, 2012

RE: PRISON PHONE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN
PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC DOCKET#96-128)

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI:

The exorbitant telephone fees charged here in the PA.D.O.C. has significantly impacted the quality of relationship I have with my family. Bad enough I've been confined in a prison located on the opposite end of my home town, so I rarely get visits, but to add to the isolation is the problem regarding these telephone fees. I use to be very close with my children and wife, but now it is as if we are all distant memories to one another.

Chairman, it would be well appreciated by every prisoner here if you were able to convince the D.O.C. and Global-Tel-Link to lower our rates, especially since Global-Tel-Link charges low fees in other states, because their D.O.C. has rejected to collect outrageous kick-back profits.

The correlation between prisoner rehabilitation and a sustained outside connection has been directly linked to one another. Without such connection, most of us gradually become A-social and loss touch with reality. So please help us.

Thankyou,

Louis Thompson

Louis Thompson

Dave Williams FY3994
S.C.I. Greene, 175 Progress Dr.
Waynesburg, PA. 15370-8090

Received & accepted
OCT 15 2012

FCC Mail Room

10-08-12

This is a public comment for
the Wright Petition(CC Docket #96-128).

Chairman Julius Genachowski
F.C.C. Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

The impact that high costs of prison phone calls has had on me and my family are unfair to us. The money used for it may very well have had benefited my family had they used the money on those things which are most important to them. Instead they send me money in order that I, amongst other things, can at least call once in the blue. Of course you family worries about you and you of them. So communication is such an important tool. More to that the cost of prison calls are an impediment on the most significant issue to an innocent prisoner who endeavors to uphold his innocence, that being keeping in touch with his attorney as well as his family in that regard and also keeping in close touch with the court's information center to obtain the information that he needs in order to prosper in his endeavor to attain relief. So I'll speak of my personal experience now in hopes that it will assist in the process of drawing a vivid picture of the unthinkable reality that prisoners across America face at the hands of those who make it their interest to make phone prices so high for prisoners.

First, it hurts me financially, sentiment wise, and it makes it a task for me to exercise a birth right to communicate, whether with loved ones, for personal reasons, or for purposes of attaining relief following a wrongful conviction. Given that, for a prisoner who can't make more than .42¢ an hour - amounting to no more than \$71.00 a month - my phone rates at \$5.15 a call is robbery. It is also monopoly, since I'm not allowed to buy telephone time like non-prisoners at \$10 or \$20 or \$30 phone cards, whether sold by verizon, or whatever other pre-paid telephone time card distributors are available. There is no competition regarding prices. So whether monopoly, robbery or some other sly act is being imposed, the result for me is that

I wind up spending more talking on the telephone, from my prison pre-paid account, than I can afford. So in turn the money runs out first. So I am stuck without an opportunity to use the telephone, no matter how dire a phone call is at that particular time. In short, I am violated of my right to communicate. And since some like to slick their way out of affording one their birth right constitutional interest, I guess that it would be best to say that this is not equal opportunity either. None should be told that since they have the choice of writing letters or visits that they have had their serving of their constitutional right. Rather it would seem a deprivation of the same. Visits cost my family up to \$300.00 for 20 people, since I am from Philly and housed here in Waynesburg near Pittsburgh. So if anything the telephone should be a relief from the visits and not the other way around. Letters should not be the height of ones ability to communicate. Anyone who has ever experienced the difference between such gadgets like audio-visuals should know that one affords you much better communication with your loved ones than would a mere telephone. How much more then when a letter is compared to a telephone. Telephone calls are also limited to the amount of time that one may use. Thereafter the price starts again, and one has to pay \$5.15 cents to call again. So to make my point clear, telephones should not be charged as high as they are being charged with the excuse being that one can visit or write, since most importantly, communication is a right and should not be streamlined. Also, to compare three totally different modes of communication is not fairness.

My family suffers since they are necessarily a half of my income. One of the main reasons that I use the money that I receive, however I get it, is to contact my family. I need my family and almost can't even think of the words "I am independent now", since I am modest of my need of them by force. My family also supports me morally, and - not me - but some seek suicide as an alternative to their horrible life. My family also supports me spiritually as we are a righteous people if we aren't the ones to say so. So it affects them as it does me. Why? Because you and your family are one. We get through things together, even if individual problems. We are clones of each other and can't really make it without each other at all. It is unthinkable that one lives on, his mother alive and well, yet he never casts a side glance. That would impact her life, via sentiment. It is her son. People are regarded in this world most, by their family. So without your family you are in some type of plight, though some live in denial! It hurts my family - last but not least- as mentioned above financially. They spend their money on me because they don't know how else to give a helping hand to a fallen sibling. Can you imagine dreaming about your relative stuck and sinking in quick-sand? The first feeling you get is concern for their well being. Similarly, in reality, my families concern for me not being free to take care of me in those ways that are best make them reach out to me with the deepest of concerns. I can't say no, but most importantly, this is my support system. So financially my family is milked by the system of pre-paid phone time all because they care. And caring is the human way to be. It cuts into their pockets but they refuse to turn their backs on me whether it be about my mind state or about my spiritual state or about my financial state. So they ^{are} prey, to the blood-sucking effect of the high prices, ~~all~~

simply because they love me. Then what, about tragic times that strike families. You would - and I have - give your last, and your family theirs in order to grow through the situation together. And what else is family for, right?! So the high prices take my family's money from them as though a debt. The choice-makers in this instant have preyed on my families open hearts and pushed them around financially.

So that is my story regarding me and my families shortcomings in this telephone monopoly/vacuum that stands between me and my family, regarding our - all of us - right to communicate like everyone else in this nation. I as well as my family suffer from the high prices to such an extent that sometimes we can't be there for and with each other morally, mentally or spiritually. It also plays a major part in the financial life of me in my family.

So now I'll speak tangibles regarding the prices per-se. I earn 70.00 a month. My family - collectively - sends me maybe 75.00 one month and 25.00 another month. One of the highest priorities on my list of things to buy is pre-paid phone time no matter what it costs. At 5.15 a call, after expenditures regarding soap lotion and toothpaste, etc., on my income I can only plan on purchasing telephone time once every three months. When I do it is normally only about 25.00, which is not even 5 phone calls. I have more than 5 people who I call. Regarding the money that my family sends me, after expenditures, I may put another 25.00 on my phone time making it less than 10 calls in three months. Also since calls are only for 15 minutes you don't get much out of your 5.15! So you could spend that phone time up wisely and not get as far as you should for no 5.15. I forgot to mention that sometimes that 25.00 phone time expectation foils because of court filings, and copies, and paid mail. Sometimes you have to call for money because you have none. 70.00 dollars does not go far. I understand that a tank of gas runs 50.00 or more today. So what is 70.00 in an expenditure frenzy?! Phone time is one of the many things pushing silvers out onto my head, and actually one of the most significant. It is not fair.

So, me and my family suffer from opposite sides of the fence for the same problem. We suffer hardship on maintaining a family bond inclusive of moral spiritual and mental-family like - support! We both- I and my family who are and always were involved with me- suffer financial losses. For example, I am stuck right now and may need to call home to my family and get some money for a bill that I have to pay, due in two weeks. How am going to get phone time to do that. It is a good thing that like slicing peas, I manage pennies. So I have one emergency phone call that I don't use even though I need the family and moral support to make it through each phase of life.

So this is my story then. Please do what you can, and even if not successful we tried for what was due, what was right, and what is our constitutional birth right. Communication!

Concernedly,

Dave Williams FY3994, 175 Progress Dr.

MIGUEL GARCIA FA1969
175 PROGRESS DRIVE
WAYNESBURG, PA 15370

Received & Inspected

OCT 15 2012

FCC Mail Room

F.C.C. CHAIRMAN
JULIUS GENACHWSKI
445 12TH ST., SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

OCTOBER 7, 2012

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE WRIGHT PETITION (CC DKT#96-128)

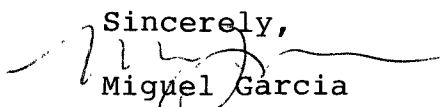
Dear Chairman Genachowski,

It feels psychologically rejuvenating to see there is a glimmer of hope in that our cries may be heard. For so long now, we have suffered the tyrantical oppression of a monopolized exorbitant telephone charge that has distant many once lively and enthused families from the prisoners whom they love.

Personally, I've become estranged to my young children and wife. I'm so far away they cannot afford to frequently visit. And while a phone call could serve as a mild compensation, it as well has become a burden. Recently, I called my wife, only to hear from her that days ago her brother had been killed and she was so aggravated by the fact I couldn't call sooner it eventually led to the demise of our relationship.

Chairman, I can not understand why the PA.D.O.C. has to take so much kick-back money from G.T.L. while other states has opted not to, and thus their prisoners have extremely affordable calls. Please help us to reform this anti-rehabilitary phone system so that we may develop a healthy pro-social behavior.

Sincerely,


Miguel Garcia

TO: Mr. Julius Genachowski
Chairman, Federal communications commission

FCC Mail Room

FROM: Earl Harris #BX9566

DATE: OCTOBER 7, 2012

RE: THE WRIGHT PETITION, CC DOCKET NO. 96-128

I'M WRITING YOU CONCERNING THE WRIGHT PETITION. I AM CURRENTLY SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE HERE AT SCI-GREENE ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF PENNSYLVANIA. I'M FROM PHILADELPHIA AND IT COSTS \$5.15 FOR ME TO MAKE A FIFTEEN MINUTE PHONE CALL TO MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS. MY GRANDMOTHER IS NINETY ONE YEARS OLD AND HER AGE PREVENTS HER FROM VISITING ME, SHE SUFFERS FROM FROM A SEVERE CASE OF ARTHRITIS AND THAT PREVENTS HER FROM WRITING ME, MY ONE AND ONLY SOURCE OF COMMUNICATION WITH MY GRANDMOTHER IS TO CALL HER BUT THAT IS VERY DIFFICULT DUE TO THE HIGH PRICES OF THE SYSTEM HERE IN PENNSYLVANIA'S DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS.

MY GRANDMOTHER PROBABLY WON'T BE ON THIS EARTH MUCH LONGER AND I RERALLY WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH HER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BUT I AM NOT ABLE TO SPEAK TO HER ON A REGULAR BASIS BECAUSE THE PRICE TO CALL HER IN PHILADELPHIA IS KILLING ME FINANCIALLY. IT IS A SHAME THAT I CAN'T CALL HER EVERY OTHER DAY TO HEAR HER VOICE, AND WORDS OF INSPIRATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

BACK IN 2010 I WAS ONE OF MANY INMATES WHO WAS TRANSFERRED FROM PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS TO MICHIGAN DUE TO PRISON OVERCROWDINESS HERE IN PENNSYLVANIA. I WAS SENT TO MUSKEGON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN. I WAS VERY HAPPY WHILE I WAS HOUSED IN MICHIGAN BECAUSE THE PHONE SYSTEM WAS ONLY \$1.80, TO CALL ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES. I WAS ABLE TO CALL MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS EVERY OTHER DAY, I WAS ABLE TO CALL RELATIVES IN FLORIDA AS WELL.

WHEN I ARRIVED BACK IN PENNSYLVANIA I VERY UPSET BECAUSE I KNEW THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CALL MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS LIKE I WAS CALLING THEM WHILE I WAS IN MICHIGAN. THE PA.D.O.C. IS RUNNING A VICIOUS MONOPOLY CONCERNING THE PHONE SYSTEM BECAUSE THE MAJORITY OF THE PRISONERS HERE ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE STATE ARE ACTUALLY FROM (PHILADELPHIA) THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE STATE. WE ARE SENT ALL THE WAY OUT HERE ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE STATE BECAUSE THE PA.D.O.C. KNOWS THAT OUR PHONE CALLS ARE GOING TO COSTS MORE THAN PRISONERS ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE STATE. I BELIEVE THAT THE PA.D.O.C. IS PUNISHING US AND OUR FAMILIES BY FORCING US TO PAY SUCH HIGH RATES FOR A PHONE CALL FROM WITHIN THE STATE.

WE ARE BEING EXPLOITED ALONG WITH OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND LOVED ONES. WE ARE BEING FORCED TO PAY EXCESSIVE TELEPHONE CHARGES WHEN PEOPLE IN SOCIETY ARE PAYING WAY LESS WHEN USING A PAY FROM. THE NUMBER ONE REASON WHY THE RECIDIVISM RATE IN PENNSYLVANIA IS SO HIGH IS BECAUSE PRISONERS ARE CONSTANTLY LOSING CONTACT WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS DUE TO THE EXCESSIVE HIGH RATE OF PRISON PHONE CALLS.

PRISONERS FROM PHILADELPHIA ARE SENT ALL THE WAY OUT HERE JUST SO THAT THEY CAN BE CHARGED HIGHER PRICES FOR THEIR PHONE CALLS TO PHILADELPHIA. WHEN I WAS HOUSED AT A PRISON FORTY FIVE MINUTES AWAY FROM PHILADELPHIA, I WAS RECEIVING THREE VISITS A WEEK, NOW THAT I AM ALL THE WAY OUT HERE MY VISITS HAS BEEN CUT DOWN TO TWO A YEAR. WHEN I WAS HOUSED IN THAT FACILITY CLOSER TO MY HOME, I WAS CALLING MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT LEAST FOUR TIMES A WEEK. NOW THOSE CALLS HAS BEEN REDUCED TO THREE A MONTH. PLEASE HELP US IN OUR STRUGGLE TO GET THESE PHONE CALLS REDUCED TO A REASONABLE AND MANAGABLE PRICE.

SINCERLY YOURS,

/S/EARL HARRIS BX 9566